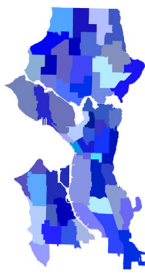


February 2005  
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# NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS



City of Seattle  
Department of Neighborhoods  
Greg Nickels, Mayor

## M ayor Nickels Kicks off Martin Luther King Holiday with Awards of \$499,365 to 48 Seattle Neighborhood Projects as part of the Mayor's Race & Social Justice Initiative

Mayor Greg Nickels announced yesterday that nearly half a million dollars in Neighborhood Matching Funds will go to organizations who are working to increase tolerance, understanding and social justice.

This is the best way to begin the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. holiday," Nickels said. "We are proud to be able to support the neighborhood groups who are working to improve understanding between groups and increase opportunities in housing, education and many other areas."

The Neighborhood Matching Fund awards are given several times a year to community groups who then match the public funds with locally raised money, donated materials, and volunteer labor. This is the second year that one set of awards has been dedicated to fulfilling the goals of the Mayor's Race and Social Justice Initiative.

This year's recommended awards funds projects from all over the city. The 48 awards will give a total of \$499,365, with each project receiving between \$3,000 to \$15,000. The communities are matching the City's dollars with local resources valued at \$650,095. The projects take up to six months to complete.

### SOME EXAMPLES OF THIS YEAR'S RECIPIENTS ARE:

- The Conciliation Project will be working on a project to offer performance-work and curriculum materials for education on issues of racism to the Seattle Public Schools.
- The NW Asian Foundation will organize a book fair, scheduled for April 30, 2005, featuring and promoting books written by local authors of color and showcasing publishers specializing in books with multi-ethnic and multi-cultural topics.
- The Refugee Federation Service Center will partner with six Mutual Assistance Agencies to increase public awareness about the unique needs of elderly refugees and to advocate on their behalf.


These awards are administered through the Department of Neighborhoods. This is the largest number of awards given at once, and are the result of a record number of applications received last fall.

"I'm very encouraged and optimistic about the results we're going to see from these great ideas," said Department of Neighborhoods Director Yvonne Sanchez. "They are in keeping with the goals of Dr. King, and we expect great results this year."

Seattle neighborhoods have completed more than 2,500 projects in the last 15 years, using Neighborhood Matching Fund amounts from \$100 to \$100,000.



2005 Race & Social Justice Awardees, Neighborhoods Director Yvonne Sanchez, far right.

Get the mayor's inside view on initiatives to promote transportation, public safety, economic opportunity and healthy communities by signing up for The Nickels Newsletter at [www.seattle.gov/mayor/newsletter\\_signup.htm](http://www.seattle.gov/mayor/newsletter_signup.htm).

# Senior advocates provide wide range of information and assistance

By Cynthia Ellison, Mayor's Office for Senior Citizens

"I need help paying my utility bills. Where can I get assistance?"

"My children work during the day when I have doctors' appointments. How am I going to get there?"

"I live alone and I need help with yard maintenance. What can I do?"

Senior Advocates in the Mayor's Office for Senior Citizens have answers to these questions and more.

Jenn Bowman and Debbie Hugh are the new Senior Advocates at the Mayor's Office for Senior Citizens. They are employed by Senior Services of Seattle/King County and assigned to this office. We are fortunate to have their reliable assistance with information and referrals.

Jenn and Debbie know how to help people in need. Their past work experiences have given them a lot of skills in assisting persons with multiple needs and providing referrals at a moment's notice.

*Jenn Bowman and Debbie Hugh, new Senior Advocates*



Senior Advocates receive many calls and walk-in clients throughout the day. Older adults may need assistance with housing, health care, transportation, nutrition and senior rights issues. Some need referrals for a podiatrist, money for new eyeglasses, and information about living wills. Extensive lists of community resources in the Senior Services database assist Jenn and Debbie in making referrals to seniors.

"Sometimes I am amazed at the variety of questions I receive and how much assistance seniors need,"

said Debbie. "Jenn and I work closely together and follow up with our clients to make sure they receive the services they need."

Besides working with the seniors, the advocates also receive assistance from or make referrals to community-based organizations such as Asian Counseling and Referral Services and Sea Mar, as well as internal services such as Aging and Disability Services Case Management.

"I really appreciate working at the Mayor's Office for Senior Citizens because we have many resources right here," said Jenn. "I am able to refer people who need assistance with their utility bills to the Utility Assistance Program. I can refer people who want to work to the Age 55+ Employment Resource Center. Seniors who want to stay

active in the community or learn about volunteering are referred to the Volunteer Matching Program or Intergenerational Dialogues in the Mayor's Office for Senior Citizens."

Senior Advocates address a wide range of problems and needs. Jenn remembers assisting one client with

a monthly income of \$1,000. She needed to cover rent, utility bills, prescription drugs, food and other bills each month. Her rent was \$700 and prescription drugs cost \$250. That left \$50 for everything else. "It was a challenge helping her, but I was able to find all the resources that she needed," said Jenn.

One call can provide easy access to a lot of services for seniors and those who care for them. Senior Advocates offer confidential, one-stop and easy access to community resources. For more information, call (206) 684-0500 or go to [www.seattle.gov/humanservices/mosc/](http://www.seattle.gov/humanservices/mosc/) on the Web.🌐

# M

## ayor Hosts Clean & Green Event

Mayor Nickels led a holiday cleanup of the Pike/Pine corridor area of Downtown on Saturday, December 11. The event, a partnership between the City, the Metro-

politan Improvement District, and the Pike Place Market, involved a thorough cleaning of the area bounded by the Market, the Convention Center, and Pike and Pine St. In addition to the maintenance and

cleaning activities, the event celebrated the importance of the holiday season to the retail business core. Kate Joncas from the MID and Carol Binder from the Market joined Mayor Nickels in the event.



## CLEAN AND GREEN FREMONT

More than 65 volunteers turned out for the successful Clean and Green Fremont event on Saturday, November 20. Residents gave Fremont a face-lift, spending the morning cleaning up trash, removing invasive ivy, and painting out graffiti. Fremont looks better than ever! 🌍



## HAPPENINGS CENTRAL AREA in your neighborhood

### JUDKINS PARK COMMUNITY COUNCIL REBOUNDS

Ms. Eudora Carter has surfaced to take the reins as the new Chair for the Community Council. Ms. Carter is working with a committee to review existing by-laws to determine how amendments can increase inclusion with new residents. One plan is to contact renters at Welch's Plaza and tenants at Main Street Condo.

### JACKSON PLACE LIGHTS

Nearly 10 years have passed since the Jackson Place Community Council was awarded lighting funds via the Washington Insurance Council. The Council installed special streetlights along 18<sup>th</sup> Ave S between S Jackson St and S Charles St. Since then, bulbs have burned out and the District Coordinator is recruiting another community person to coordinate bulb replacement with City Light.

### POWELL BARNETT PARK

Leschi residents have initiated the fundraising campaign for the park with an ice cream social at the Garfield Community Center. The event generated \$130. Organizers submitted two applications for funding to improve the Park. One of the applications is for \$12,000 from the Neighborhood Matching Fund to complete the design process.

## DELRIDGE

### GATHERING OF NEIGHBORS BRINGS COMMUNITY TO CHIEF SEALTH

Nearly 300 people attended the first annual Gathering of Neighbors Event: Get Connected, Get Energized held at Chief Sealth High School. Over 40 businesses, community organizations, and human service agencies displayed information about their services and programs, plus ways local residents could get more involved in their community. The Delridge and Southwest District Councils, and Megawatt, a new non-profit organization in West Seattle devoted to building connections and relationship through community service, sponsored the event. Next year organizers plan to have the event at West Seattle High School.

### HIGH POINT DEVELOPMENT ON SCHEDULE

The redevelopment of High Point is steadily moving forward, according to Tom Phillips, Seattle Housing Authority Hope VI project manager. A natural drainage system is being installed that features a large pond the size of a football field. It will function much like a meadow to retain and clean the water before it is released into Longfellow Creek. Narrow streets and wide planting strips are being installed to help slow traffic throughout the development. The SHA is working with Neighborhood House to build a 66,000 square foot neighborhood community center. Once residents begin to move back into High Point in March, a new neighborhood association will be formed to foster community-building activities and programs.

Happenings, continued on following page...



## HAPPENINGS your neighborhood

### **DNDA RECEIVES FUNDS TO START RENOVATION OF OLD COOPER SCHOOL**

The Delridge Neighborhoods Development Association announced that the State of Washington has committed to provide \$1.6 million toward the financing for the housing portion of the renovation of the former Cooper Elementary School. The community development agency has officially notified the Seattle School District of its intention to purchase the building in January. With building permits already in hand, construction plans ready to go, and now enough money to start the renovations, DNDA has set Saturday, February 12 from 1 - 4 p.m. for a groundbreaking celebration. The future Delridge Arts and Cultural Center is no longer a dream, it's now a reality.

In related news, DNDA has reached the 79% mark in its campaign to raise the funds for the community facilities portion of this and two other projects [Croft Place Housing Development and West Seattle Resource Center] in the Three in One community capital campaign. They hope to raise the remaining funds by June 2005.

### **DSHS MULTI-RESOURCE CENTER OPEN HOUSE**

Over 150 people attended the public reception to celebrate the opening of the new Department of Social and Health Services White Center Multi-Service Center. The facility will provide a wide variety of integrated services including cash grants, medical and childcare assistance, and other services for 16,000 low-income clients in White Center, Burien, Boulevard Park, Delridge, and West Seattle. The event began with cultural and religious blessings from the Khmer, Samoan, East African, and American Indian communities. With most of its programs located on the second floor, DSHS will soon be sharing the complex with retail stores, other governmental agencies, and non-profit organizations on the first floor. Yvonne Sanchez, Department of Neighborhoods, speaking on behalf of the Mayor and City of Seattle, expressed the City's continued commitment to support the redevelopment and community-building spirit of the White Center community.

## **DOWNTOWN**

### **SPD FOCUSES ON DAY LABOR ISSUE**

The Seattle Police Department conducted a special emphasis operation in December in the area along Western Ave and Battery St, which is the center of day labor activity downtown. The City has been working closely with Belltown stakeholders in response to complaints about illegal activity among some of the men who congregate in this area.

### **ID CONSIDERS STREETCAR EXTENSION**

City and County staff met in December with representatives of the International District neighborhood to discuss the possibility of extending the waterfront streetcar into the ID. The necessity of the relocation of the current trolley maintenance facility for the Sculpture Park is providing the potential opportunity for route expansion. Many questions remain about

[Happenings, continued on following page...](#)

## **N**eighborhood Park **Project Updates**

This winter has been an exciting one for many communities around the city that have been working with Seattle Parks Foundation to improve, renew, and expand their neighborhood parks! In December, construction was in full swing at three neighborhood park projects:

### **LAKE PEOPLE (XACUA'BS) PARK- 3070 S. BRADFORD STREET, IN NORTH RAINIER VALLEY**

This project came to be when property developers Diane and Monte Powell chose to donate 4 parcels of land to the Seattle Parks Foundation to become a park. Community members organized, and began working enthusiastically on planning, designing, and constructing their new park. Thanks to community volunteers, generous donors, and technical assistance provided by Seattle Parks Foundation, construction of this brand new park is finished! The view of the Cascades is stunning, and the park has already become a much-used community asset. Neighbors of the park continue to work with Seattle Parks Foundation to raise an additional \$36,000 to cover maintenance of the new park for three years.

### **BENEFIT PARK - 9320 38TH AVENUE S., IN SOUTH BEACON HILL**

Friends of Benefit Park formed when park-goers and neighbors came together with the intent of improving this South Beacon Hill park. With technical assistance from Seattle Parks Foundation, the community group planned their park improvements and raised funds to make these improvements a reality. Construction is finished on this park improvement project, with only the new children's play area remain-

ing to be completed. Play equipment will be installed in April, in time for a May grand opening.

### **HOMER HARRIS PARK- 2401 EAST HOWELL STREET, IN THE CENTRAL AREA**

Construction on this new park will be complete in January! The community group, Friends of Homer Harris Park, continues working with the Seattle Parks Foundation to raise funds for the park's art and history elements. These elements will celebrate Dr. Homer Harris' inspiring life as a pioneering athlete and civic leader as well as the African American cultural history of the neighborhood. Plans are in the works for a May 2005 ribbon cutting. .

Each of these projects have been made possible with the support of Department of Neighborhoods matching grants, passionate community volunteers, and other park enthusiasts and generous donors. Thank you, all!🌍

## **The Green Bus Benches of Magnolia**

Jennifer Carlson is fortunate to have a bus stop located right in front of her home. In the brief time she and her family have lived there, she noticed that people would often have to sit on the wet grass around the bus stop while waiting for the bus to arrive because there was no bench to sit on.

When an elderly lady took to using one of the large decorative rocks in Jennifer's front yard as a seat, she knew that something had to be done. This wasn't the only case; there were also other stops along the route that didn't have benches either.

[Benches continued on page 6.](#)

## **HAPPENINGS** **in your neighborhood**

costs and logistics before any action will be taken, however.

### **COMMUNITY COURT HAS OFFICIAL KICKOFF**

City Attorney Tom Carr and Municipal Court Presiding Judge Fred Bonner hosted an initial meeting of downtown stakeholders in December to launch a new community court. The community court model embraces a "restorative justice" philosophy in which a defendant is given the option of performing community service in the community in which the offense was committed in lieu of jail time. Midtown Manhattan, Portland, Oregon and other cities have demonstrated great success with a community court. The well-represented group learned more about the program and provided input on sentencing guidelines.

## **EAST**

### **SPD BIKE PATROLS RETURN TO BROADWAY**

Seattle Police Department East Precinct Bike Squad returned to patrol the Broadway business area in response to the neighborhood's on-going problems with public inebriates and drug abuse.

### **GROUNDSWELL OFF-BROADWAY OVERSEES COMPLETION OF THE COVERING OF THE LINCOLN RESERVOIR**

In a recent interview with Department of Neighborhoods staff, Kay Rood, Chairperson of the Groundswell off-Broadway organization, stated the importance of the next months as the completion of the covering of the Lincoln Reservoir is finalized.

The Groundswell off-Broadway neighborhood organization has been working throughout the years to create a park on top of the Lincoln Reservoir as part of the City's proposed covering of water reservoirs. Parks and open space were among the highest priorities of the Capitol Hill Neighborhood Plan.

### **CORIXA CELEBRATES NEW HOME**

The Denny Triangle neighborhood officially became the new home of Corixa in November. Corixa is one of the cutting-edge bio-tech firms, which are rapidly transforming the South Lake Union and Denny Triangle neighborhoods into a major research hub. The company anchors the new Life Sciences building at the corner of 9<sup>th</sup> and Stewart developed by the Touchstone Corporation. Mayor Nickels welcomed Corixa to the Center City and stressed the increasingly important role which bio-tech is playing in this region.

### **MILLER PARK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION PUBLIC SAFETY WALK**

Approximately 30 residents of the Miller/Madison neighborhood joined Seattle Police Department (SPD) officers for a public safety walk throughout their neighborhood. SPD Lieutenant John Hayes led the group through the last remaining buildings of what was once the Central Area "Night Club Alley".

[Happenings, continued on following page...](#)

## HAPPENINGS your neighborhood

Residents' complaints of prostitution, public inebriates, and street violence in the neighborhood has brought about the need for the community to focus on that part of the neighborhood where most of the problems allegedly start.

About 12 buildings remain undeveloped along E Madison St between 19<sup>th</sup> Ave E and 23<sup>rd</sup> Ave E. At these sites, three nightclubs, a tavern, and low-income apartments are at the heart of the perceived problem.

Neighborhood residents toured this part of the neighborhood and Officer Hayes invited them to get to know their neighbors and to patronize the establishments as the best way to impact crime in the neighborhood.

### SEATTLE UNIVERSITY PLANS TO HOST TENT CITY # 3 AT ITS CAMPUS

Officials at Seattle University confirmed their plan to bring Tent City # 3 to the university campus starting January 29.

Tent City is a homeless education program that travels from neighborhood to neighborhood hosted by churches and other institutions. It consists of approximately 100 homeless residents that set up camp at parking lots or other locations within the hosting organization. The program is coordinated by SHARE/WHEEL.

This particular Tent City will be considered part of the Seattle University educational program and different schools will be actively participating with the homeless population on educational and services programs. As with other Tent Cities in our district, SPD and Neighborhood Coordinators will be attending neighborhood meetings and facilitating information as needed.

### CO-ED SEVERE WEATHER SHELTER AT YESLER TERRACE RECEIVES SHA APPROVAL

A Co-ed, 75-bed severe weather shelter received approval from the Seattle Housing Authority to be located at the Yesler Terrace Community Center this winter. Initially, the proposed shelter was not received positively by the Yesler Terrace community, in part due to the alleged criminal level of the population that could be using the shelter and the homicide that took place in one of the shelters at the Miller Park Community Center last year. However, most of the security issues raised by the community are being addressed and better multi-service agency cooperation is taking place for this site.

Yesler Terrace Community Council and Seattle Housing Authority worked in cooperation with the Severe Weather Team and homeless shelter providers in the opening of this facility.

## GREATER DUWAMISH

### SOUTH PARK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Public Health, Seattle Public Utilities, and the Department of Energy attended the South Park Neighborhood Association meeting to update the community on the latest developments and clean-up activities for the areas testing positive for PCBs. Both public right-of-ways and private properties have been identified and a health assessment is being done to see if fur-

[Happenings, continued on following page...](#)

[Benches continued from page 5.](#)

By contacting the Seattle Department of Neighborhoods, Jennifer found that she could bring together community members with a neighborhood improvement idea, and if approved, could receive a grant through the Neighborhood Matching Fund. Community residents surrounding



the bus stops were notified about the project and invited to participate via public meetings, design discussions, and work parties.

There were many people willing to donate labor, resources and funds that added up to \$8,824. The Department of Neighborhoods then chipped in with \$6,731 in order to complete four green bus stop benches in Magnolia. The project also received support from King County Metro and the Seattle Department of Transportation.

These green benches have been in use in the Magnolia shopping district, and using them for this project was an effort to link those improvements to the outlying neighborhoods. The benches and landscaping are an enhancement to an existing Metro Adopt-A-Stop program that helps with trash and litter pick-up.

This community-initiated project intended to create welcoming and comfortable greeting places for bus riders, as well as an attractive streetscape for pedestrians, drivers, and the neighborhood, and increased natural habitat in our urban surroundings. On these grounds, this community has succeeded.🌍


## Mayor Nickels Awards \$163,958 to 16 Neighborhood Projects

On December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2004, Mayor Nickels unveiled new funding awards for 16 different neighborhood projects through the Department of Neighborhoods Matching Fund. Several times a year, Small and Simple Project Fund Awards are given to groups committed to building a better community by matching public funds with locally raised money, donated materials, and volunteer labor.

This year's awards recipients will include projects from all over the city. The 16 awards totaling \$168,958 range from \$1,911 to \$15,000. In addition to the City's contribution to the projects, the communities will "match" the City's dollars with local resources valued at \$212,535. Award recipients and community members joined Mayor Nickels and Department of Neighborhoods Director Yvonne Sanchez at a ceremony for the award winners at Greenwood Elementary School in Seattle.

"One of my top priorities as Mayor is building strong communities. This is exactly what these groups here tonight have accomplished through the Neighborhood Matching Fund," said Nickels. "They are making their communities a better place while achieving great results."

Yvonne Sanchez, Director of Neighborhoods, said, "It's very important to lead a life larger than our own, and these community members are making a big difference in their neighborhoods by getting involved in such great projects."

The Small and Simple Projects Fund is one of four components of the Neighborhood Matching Fund, and provides awards \$15,000 and under to support community driven projects that take up to six months to complete. Seattle neighborhoods have completed more than 2500 projects in the last 15 years using as little as \$100 and as much \$100,000 from the Neighborhood Matching Fund. 

## HAPPENINGS in your neighborhood

ther action is necessary. Some community members were very emotional when discussing their fears and concerns about the long-term effects on their children, as they are quite sure that they have been exposed to the PCBs at some point. They are also concerned about compensation for them should they develop problems later in life. Other community members were urging the City to continue testing in other areas upland from the contaminated sites. Initial tests at other sites did not show any detectable levels of contamination, so it is unlikely they will continue to test further away from the targeted site.

Currently, Department of Neighborhoods staff is working with the property owners and residents to try to reach a resolution on the zoning issues that will make it possible to move forward with the Comp Plan amendments.

### LAKE UNION

#### SOUTH LAKE UNION EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

South Lake Union Friends And Neighbors (SLUFAN) has expressed interest in organizing an emergency preparedness training early next year for the South Lake Union/Cascade neighborhood. The Neighborhood District Coordinator will work with the Office for Emergency Management to provide the training. The idea for the training was in response to the increase in biotech research in the area. In the event of bio-terrorism or the accidental release of hazardous materials, the neighborhood wants an emergency plan.

#### SUMMER NIGHTS IN SOUTH LAKE UNION

At the monthly SLUFAN Planning Committee meeting on December 20, the Parks Department and One Reel productions presented their proposal for relocating the Summer Nights concert series from Pier 62/63 to South Lake Union Park for one year. Although most members of SLUFAN recognize the benefit of housing the concert series in South Lake Union, they are also very concerned about the impact the concerts will have on the neighborhood and the current activities of the park. The primary concerns identified (in addition to parking and traffic management) were coordinating concerts around the Wooden Boat Festival, and other Center for Wooden Boats and Virginia V booked events that include weddings, parties, and activities that require access to the pier. One Reel Productions and Parks promised to have a concert layout plan by mid-January and have agreed to not book a concert on the weekend of the Wooden Boat Festival, although they cannot guarantee any other dates. They will have a finalized list of concert dates by April and have agreed to work with the affected organizations to minimize the impact of the concerts. All-in-all the concert series will aid in the revitalization of the neighborhood bringing thousands of residents to South Lake Union to shop, eat, and enjoy the Lake Union waterfront and all it has to offer.

#### EASTLAKE STREETCAR EXTENSION

SDOT held its first meeting with several residents and business leaders

[Happenings, continued on following page...](#)



## HAPPENINGS in your neighborhood

of Eastlake to start discussing a possible streetcar extension from South Lake Union through Eastlake. It was acknowledged that a streetcar could bring benefits to the neighborhood and be a driving force in implementing the "Main Street" vision Eastlake has laid out in its Neighborhood Plan. The residents supported the idea that a street car would increase neighborhood connectivity, bring SLU employees and new residents to Eastlake businesses, and the possibility of connecting to Light Rail and/or monorail at University and Westlake. Some of the concerns that were identified were that the streetcar should not be designed to operate in the parking lane, but in the travel lane as to maintain the current level of on-street parking. Additionally, the community wants to ensure that the streetcar will be an addition, rather than a replacement to, the current bus service. A community meeting to discuss the proposed project with the larger community is planned for early February.

### MAGNOLIA/QUEEN ANNE

#### ALCOHOL IMPACT AREA GOOD NEIGHBOR EFFORT KICKS OFF

Members of the Queen Anne Community Council, the Uptown Alliance, and the Queen Anne Chamber of Commerce began visiting off-premise liquor establishments in Uptown in an effort to get voluntary compliance with a Good Neighbor Agreement. The Agreement would commit the businesses to refrain from selling specific products that have been linked to chronic public inebriates. Reaction so far has been mixed. Volunteers are also collecting and documenting alcohol-related litter in the neighborhood to assess the impact of the voluntary program.

#### DISTRICT COUNCIL EXPANDS

The Magnolia/Queen Anne District Council added five new member organizations at its November meeting. This is part of an ongoing effort to broaden and diversify the Council's membership. The new organizations include the Magnolia Historical Society, the Queen Anne Historical Society, the Magnolia Neighborhood Peace Project, the Heron Habitat Helpers, and the Interbay P-Patch.

#### IT'S OFFICIAL: DISCOVERY PARK CHAPEL GETS LANDMARK STATUS

The Landmarks Board voted to officially designate the Discovery Park Chapel as a Seattle Landmark in December. Earlier, the Parks Department had announced its intention to demolish the structure to return the site to its natural state. Neighborhood activist Heidi Carpine argued it should be preserved as the only remaining WWII-era structure left at Fort Lawton. She led an effective grassroots campaign that gained the support of even community organizations that had previously endorsed the demolition.

#### KEY ARENA EXPANSION PROPOSED

The Seattle Supersonics have proposed nearly doubling the size of Key Arena. The expansion to the south would provide new concession stands and restaurants, offices, parking, and practice space. The Arena went

[Happenings, continued on following page...](#)

## Small Sparks

Small Sparks organizers had a lot to celebrate when they got together to share their stories in November. Judith had gathered neighbors together in her Bea-



con Hill neighborhood for a "Picnic in the Park". Artists displayed their work, kids drew pictures about their neighborhood, and hundreds of neighbors visited booths about resources in the neighborhood.

This all happened in front of the new Beacon Hill library. Brett and other residents in low-income housing operated by the Plymouth Housing Group organized the Urban Photographers project, photographing people and places in their neighborhood. These are just a couple of the creative Small Sparks projects represented at this year's celebration.

Small Sparks, a program of the Neighborhood Matching Fund, has supported - funded, advised, and inspired - creative efforts to reach out to new people and build community in Seattle's neighborhoods since 1999. Since then over 120 projects have been organized from service exchanges to art walks, neighborhood celebrations, concerts in the park and more. Cities around the world are taking note of this creative fund to build community. Small Sparks programs have been replicated as far away as Australia, Great Britain, Alberta, and close by in towns around the Puget Sound.

For up to \$250, Small Sparks participants,



singly and small groups, have turned an interest or passion into a small-scale neighborhood project that involved people they didn't know before. Through their actions, neighbors got to know each other in fun and creative ways. Almost any community building idea is possible. Department of Neighborhood staff or neighborhood coaches can help anyone who has a good idea shape it into a fundable project.

Give us a call at 684-0464 and we'll help you design a neighborhood project that sparks your interest and engages new people. Or visit the web site at [www.seattle.gov/neighborhoods/nmf/smallsparks.htm](http://www.seattle.gov/neighborhoods/nmf/smallsparks.htm) and you can find out what others have done in their neighborhood. 🌐



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## HAPPENINGS in your neighborhood

through a major \$74 million renovation in 1995. The Sonics will ask the state legislature to devote future King County hotel and sales tax revenues so no new taxes would be required for the project. Uptown activists are reserving judgment until more details are available. The proposed parking structure could alleviate or exacerbate current gridlock in the neighborhood on game nights.

### MAYOR TO TOUR QUEEN ANNE HILL

Mayor Nickels will tour Queen Anne and meet with neighborhood residents and businesspeople on Saturday, February 5 from 10am to noon. The Mayor will visit various neighborhood improvement projects and discuss Queen Ann's concerns about development, public safety, and traffic. For more information contact John Leonard, Neighborhood District Coordinator at 684-4812.

## NORTH

### NORTHGATE STAKEHOLDERS REVIEW MALL REDEVELOPMENT PLANS

At its November meeting, the Northgate Stakeholders group approved an advice memo to the Mayor and the City Council about the first phase of the proposed redevelopment of the Northgate Mall by Simon Property Group. In the memo, stakeholders encouraged the building of stronger pedestrian connections and the use of natural drainage systems for stormwater management as part of redevelopment. The stakeholder group will formally present this advice to the Design Review Board as the mall redevelopment proposal works its way toward an approved Master Use Permit. The next stakeholders meeting will be on February 1, 2005. A main topic of the February meeting will be the baseline technical assumptions for the Northgate Coordinated Transportation Investment Plan (CTIP). It is also planned that there will be another Northgate Community Forum in March.

### LAKE CITY LIONS ROAR AND RAISE OVER \$1,100 FOR SCHOOL

The Lake City Lions Club raised over \$1,100 for Olympic Hills Elementary School at a pancake fundraiser at the Lake City Community Center. The breakfast served over 200 people, and the funds will be used to provide supplies and support programs at the school. Students come from 49 countries and speak 17 different languages. The level of need at the school is high: 30% of the students are bilingual, and 60% receive free or reduced-price lunches.

## NORTHEAST

### TRI-CHAMBER ATTRACTS BUSINESSES FROM THREE CHAMBERS

The Wallingford, Fremont, and University District Chambers held a gala social event Tuesday, November 22 in the Lux Restaurant, a new eatery in the Wallingford Center. Close to 70 business people and friends of Chambers came to an hors d'oeuvres and no-host bar event. The three Chambers have recently started working together around some common

[Happenings, continued on following page...](#)

## HAPPENINGS in your neighborhood

issues. A new alliance is forming bringing business organizations from around the city together to talk to each other and collaborate on common issues. Tuesday evening was the fun part – getting to meet business neighbors.

### NORTHWEST

#### FRED MEYER DESIGN REVIEW

The City's Design Review Board reviewed the application for the proposed redevelopment of the Greenwood Fred Meyer property at a public meeting November 22. Primary points of deliberation included review of the façade treatments and modulation of scale, mid-block pedestrian connections, and the addition of corner entries at main intersections. The property owner and representatives from Fred Meyer continue to work with the Greenwood Town Center Advisory Committee on the overall design elements of the project. The community is interested in reducing the perceived mass of the overall development while increasing pedestrian-friendly amenities.

#### CRIME CONCERNS ON AURORA

Members of the Aurora Avenue Merchants Association have expressed renewed concerns over a recent surge in burglaries and robberies in the north end of the Aurora Avenue business corridor. The AAMA group worries that the increase in these incidents will continue to drive more merchants out of business or cause them to move out of the area, thus making the corridor even more of a target for illegal activities.

#### GREENWOOD HIT WITH GRAFFITI

Greenwood businesses and residents report a new wave of graffiti on private buildings, utility poles, Metro bus stops, and public spaces, including a rash of tagging in Greenwood Park (which Parks staff recently cleaned up). This area of the Greenwood neighborhood has been selected as the location for the January 22, 2005 Clean and Green event.

#### MORE GREENING FOR GREENWOOD/PHINNEY

This month the Greenwood/Phinney Neighborhood Stewardship Group invested the remainder of its Early Implementation Funds in planting additional street trees and base plantings at selected sites in the business district. The plantings were done in order to replace missing or damaged trees along Greenwood Ave N. Additional work to improve the base plantings around existing trees will be completed this spring as part of the Greenwood-Phinney Chamber's "Free the Trees" project, which is funded by the City's Office of Economic Development.

#### NORTHWEST GROUPS EXPAND OUTREACH EFFORTS

In order to reach out to a larger and more diverse population, some Northwest District organizations have gotten web sites and discussion groups up and running. They include:

Broadview Community Council at [www.broadviewcc.info](http://www.broadviewcc.info)

Greenwood Community Council at [www.greenwoodnews.net](http://www.greenwoodnews.net)

Greenwood/Phinney Chamber of Commerce at [www.greenwood-phinney.com](http://www.greenwood-phinney.com)

Happenings, continued on following page...

## Residents can get current, stay current on utility bills

Spanish, Somali and Vietnamese residents of Seattle may benefit from utility assistance brochures recently published by the Mayor's Office for Senior Citizens. The office can provide a full brochure in each language and assist all income-eligible utility customers, regardless of age.


The brochures outline rate discount and payment assistance programs offered by the City of Seattle. Eligible Seattle residents can receive a 50% discount on their Seattle City Light and Seattle Public Utility (water, sewer, garbage) bills. One-time Seattle City Light payment assistance is also available.

Utility customers eligible to receive ongoing utility rate discounts include those 65 and over and adults with disabilities, who have household incomes less than 70% of the Washington state median income. For a three-person household, that's \$39,516 per year.

Utility customers under age 65, without disabilities, whose household income is less than 200% of the federal poverty level are also available. For a three-person household, that's \$31,344 per year.

Project Share can help low- and moderate-income Seattle City Light customers who are facing disconnection to get current on their electric bills. The rate discount helps low-income customers stay current.

For copies the utility assistance brochure in Spanish, Somali, Vietnamese, or English, call the Mayor's Office for Senior Citizens at (206) 684-0500. To apply for utility rate assistance, call (206) 684-0268. For referral to Project Share, call the Utility Service Center at (206) 684-3000.

The Mayor's Office for Senior Citizens supports healthy aging, independent living, and social and civic engagement for all Seattle residents. The office is located at 618 Second Avenue, Room 250 (Alaska Building, 2<sup>nd</sup> & Cherry). For more information, call (206) 684-0500 or go to [www.seattle.gov/humanservices/mosc/](http://www.seattle.gov/humanservices/mosc/) on the Web. 

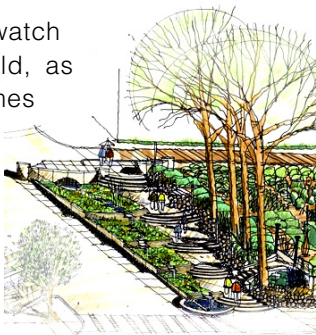
# Vision Becomes Reality ON VINE

## THE GROWING VINE STREET CISTERN STEPS PROJECT

In 1998, residents of the Belltown Neighborhood came together around a vision for green tree-lined streets plazas and environmentally-friendly development for their neighborhood. As part of the Belltown Neighborhood Plan, a dedicated group of urban neighborhood visionaries developed the Growing Vine Street Green Street Design Plan as a vision of a green oasis running along Vine Street from the Waterfront to Fifth Avenue. The vision included capturing roof-water run off as part of general demonstration of smart environmental policy.

The Cistern Steps portion of the larger project is now under construction using a combination of King County Waterworks funds, Neighborhood Matching Fund Grants, City Street Fund and private donations. This first phase is a series of plazas, and roof water capture and filtration holding cells that will be used to purify water run-off captured from the adjacent buildings that will then be used for irrigation of new plantings and the adjacent Belltown P-patch. The project will essentially extend the green oasis that is the Belltown P-patch to the street as part of a new community gathering place that includes the renovated Belltown Cottages, which includes a community meeting space, and the ever-popular and whimsical Belltown P-patch.

Come by and watch the project unfold, as this area becomes a major meeting area for the neighborhood. Watch as the dream becomes a reality. 🌐



## HAPPENINGS in your neighborhood

### SOUTHEAST

#### RAINIER VALLEY EXPRESSES CONCERNS OVER CASA LATINA

Community and business representative from SE Seattle met with the executive director of CASA Latina to discuss their concerns with the nonprofit organization relocating to the former Chubby and Tubby site in Rainier Valley. Members from the Rainier Valley Chamber, Southeast Seattle Crime Prevention Council, Mount Baker Community Club, and Genessee Merchants Association expressed concerns over CASA Latina's day-laborer program. The community wants to see the site used for a new business venture, arguing that Southeast Seattle needs more jobs and economic development. The community is also concerned that CASA Latina's day-laborer program could be a public safety issue.

Community representatives said they appreciate the important services that CASA Latina provides, but argue that it would be better located in the Duwamish industrial area.

#### ACRS RECEIVES FUNDING FROM THE GATES FOUNDATION

The Asian Counseling and Referral Services project (ACRS) has to date raised \$3 million towards the \$15.5 million needed for its new facility along Martin Luther King Jr. Way S. The City of Seattle, King County, and now the Gates Foundation have each pledged \$1million toward the project.

The new facility will feature an activity center for elders, a computer lab for job seekers, youth tutoring, counseling space, and meeting rooms for community activities and events.

### SOUTHWEST

#### BEACH FIRES RESTORED AT ALKI

At the November 18 meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners, members voted 3 to 1 to continue to allow fires at Alki Beach much to the delight of the Alki Community Council. Members of the Council felt that problems at Golden Gardens Park, and a proposed citywide ban on beach fires, would have unfairly penalized users at Alki Beach. The Council attributes measures adopted by the Seattle Department of Parks and Recreation that established fire pits, along with an educational campaign to inform the public about the proper materials for use in burning, have reduced the number of abuses considerably.

#### GATHERING OF NEIGHBORS EVENT A HUGE SUCCESS

Over 350 people attended the first annual Gathering of Neighbors event held November 13 at Chief Sealth High School. The event featured over 40 displays that showcased the efforts and accomplishments of West Seattle's neighborhood and business organizations. The featured speaker was renowned author and West Seattleite Paul Leob, who spoke on the dynamics and importance of community involvement. Also participating in the festivities were Seattle City Councilmembers Richard Conlin and David Della, and

[Happenings, continued on following page...](#)

## HAPPENINGS in your neighborhood

Department of Neighborhoods Director Yvonne Sanchez. Attendees were treated to free food and entertainment provided by local area performers. Funding for the event was provided by the Department of Neighborhoods Neighborhood Matching Fund and the Safeco Foundation.

### WATER TAXI TO RETURN

Thanks to the efforts of King County Councilmember Dow Constantine, the Elliott Bay Water Taxi will return in 2005 for its eighth season. Councilmember Constantine will continue in his efforts to secure permanent funding and a permanent docking facility for the Water Taxi. The Water Taxi has been funded on a year-to-year basis since its first sailing in 1997, with one interruption in 2000. The 2005 sailing season will begin on April 15 and will run through September 30. The Water Taxi will once again sail from a temporary dock at Seacrest Park in West Seattle to the downtown Seattle waterfront. The Southwest Neighborhood Dis-

trict Coordinator has initiated contact with Councilmember Constantine's Office to ensure that before decisions are made regarding the route of the Water Taxi shuttle service, the Admiral neighborhood is consulted and included in the discussions and decision-making process.

### ALKI BATHHOUSE RENOVATIONS COMPLETED

After nearly a year-long closure due to extensive renovations, the Alki Bathhouse has reopened its doors to the public. In addition to the renovations, the Bathhouse now features a new multi-purpose room, flanked on either side by an art studio and pottery studio. The Alki Community Center Advisory Council and the Friends of the Alki Bathhouse partnered with the City on the project by raising an additional \$130,000, including a \$100,000 award from the Neighborhood Matching Fund, to augment the \$410,000 provided under the 2000 Pro Parks Levy. 🌐



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